



Check out these arts oriented websites

Arts and Advocacy: www.internationalculturalcompass.org provides information on international policies, legislation, funding, research, and developments as they affect the cultural sector.

Arts Education: The Continental Harmony website, www.pbs.org/harmony, profiles 58 projects across the U.S., with teachers guides, audio clips of composers talking about their work, and a Sound Lounge-where visitors can play around with a composition's melody, rhythm, and arrangement.

Arts Online: The Register of Creative Communities is an online information source aimed at disseminating examples of and promoting cross-sector links among arts and culture, health, business, environment, regeneration, and community development. Visit www.creativecommunities.org.uk.

PERCENT FOR ART



Art on campus

Pieces recently installed in the new Natural Resources Building at Montana Tech of The University of Montana – Butte are (clockwise from left): “Serenity,” a triptych by Bern Sundell of Ennis; “Enormous Stone Heap,” a mixed-media work by Mark Baumbach of Whitefish; and “Retro Signs,” an acrylic mural by Kelli Sullivan of Butte, painted directly onto the building’s north, east and south walls.

New website promotes ceramics in Montana

By Shalene Valenzuela

The concept of a central point to promote the ceramic arts in Montana was born from the statewide energy for ceramics that came in 2011 from the Archie Bray Foundation’s 60th anniversary celebration, as well as the “Persistence in Clay” exhibitions, the hiring of new faculty at Montana’s various higher education institutions, and the growing amount of successful studio artists working in Montana. Amidst this influx of activity, the idea to pool resources and create a website to educate a larger public audience about ceramics in Montana came to fruition.

Julia Galloway, director of the School of Art at The University of Montana, spearheaded the effort to gather information from every resource imaginable and worked diligently on making this concept into a reality.

In spring 2012, www.montanaclay.org was launched. This informative website is an internationally accessible resource for those

interested not only in the arts in Montana, but in clay in general. It features active makers, artists, craftsmen, schools, art centers, and galleries that are invested in the preservation, promotion and advancement of the ceramics arts in Montana through shared resources, networking, open dialogue and advocacy.

Montanaclay.org includes a section dedicated to individual ceramic artists and their websites. Featured artists must permanently reside in Montana full time (are not students nor in Montana purely for an artist residency), have an active professional clay practice, and the desire to help promote ceramics in our state.

The website also includes organizations, galleries, community centers and higher education programs with a focus in ceramics, as well as a growing “history” section that includes links to various notable articles, catalogs, and interviews. Montanaclay.org strives to honor the efforts of historical ceramics

trailblazers in the state, such as Rudy Autio, Peter Voulkos and Frances Senska, and the rich history of the Archie Bray Foundation, while championing the contemporary ceramics work being made by current professional artists and at newer organizations such as the Clay Studio of Missoula, Red Lodge Clay Center, and the Wild Clay Research Project.

Additionally, there is a Montana Clay Facebook page for all who are interested in the ceramic arts in Montana to share information about upcoming events, news, and exhibitions. Anyone with a Facebook account will be able to join and participate.

Montanaclay.org is truly a communal effort, and a work in progress. Individuals and organizations that meet the criteria for inclusion on the site are updated on a quarterly basis. Additionally, the project was awarded a MAC Strategic Investment Grant to promote the website at NCECA in Seattle.

Strategic Investment Grants

The Montana Arts Council Strategic Investment Grants (SIG) provide up to \$1,000 in matching funds to professional artists, nonprofit 501(c)(3) arts organizations and pre-K–12 teachers in Montana for:

Training and Network Development: Grants for professional development and networking opportunities that help build art skills, healthy arts careers and businesses.

Market Expansion: Grants to help increase exposure and improve marketing or promotion, opportunities for exhibition or performance and sales.

Public Outreach Arts Activities: Grants for ongoing and one-time arts activities by arts organizations and artists that help

firmly anchor the arts in the greater community.

Challenges and Emergencies: Grants to provide assistance for artists or arts organizations experiencing catastrophic-level emergencies that threaten their ability to continue their work, and demand prompt and immediate attention.

Other Projects: Activities and ideas falling outside of these categories, yet worthy of state investment, might be eligible. Potential applicants must first discuss their proposal with the MAC grants director, Kristin Han Burgoyne (khan@mt.gov or 406-444-6449) to determine eligibility.

Following is a list of SIG grants awarded April through July, 2012:

Organization/Individual	Project Title	Town	Awarded
George Bumann	National Sculpture Society/Patina Workshop	Gardiner	\$943
Libby Blues Festival	Blues in the Schools	Libby	\$1,000
Jill Oberman	Watershed Center for Ceramic Arts Residency	Missoula	\$1,000
Cori O’Connell	Art Kits	Helena	\$1,000
Dorothy Morrison	Balinese Gamelan & Dance Visiting Artists	Missoula	\$1,000
Rocky Mountain Ballet Theatre	RMBT Summer International Workshop 2012	Missoula	\$1,000
Tarn Ream	Camp Fareta African Music & Dance Workshop	Missoula	\$765
Meghan Bell	OLI designs Market Expansion	Missoula	\$1,000
Jeremy Lurgio Photography	Lost & Found Montana	Missoula	\$1,000
The Montana A Cappella Society	Danny Boy Tour	Hamilton	\$1,000
Charley Shipley	Nampa Festival of the Arts	Helena	\$1,000
Mission Valley Dance	JGPG 2012 Summer Workshop	Polson	\$730
Jerolyn Dirks	Tim Lawson Workshop	Belgrade	\$1,000
Glenn Gilmore	Western Design Conference & Sale	Corvallis	\$1,000
Lorne Murphy	Training in Traditional Shoe Cobbling	Bozeman	\$625